

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, prenumbered line 32 to page 11, prenumbered line 2, as follows:

C<sup>1</sup> - Figure 1 illustrates the alignment of the deduced amino acid sequences of, respectively, human (SEQ ID NO. 1), frog (SEQ ID NO. 46) and carp prepro-UII (SEQ ID NOS. 47 and 48). In this figure, the signal sequence is indicated in italics; the conserved amino acids are indicated in black; the cleavage sites of the prohormone are indicated by stars and the conserved amino acid residues are indicated by a black circle. The disulfide bridge present in the UII sequence is indicated under the urotensin II sequence. The amino acids are numbered on the right of the figure;

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, prenumbered lines 3-4, as follows:

- Figure 2 illustrates the structure of human prepro-UII (SEQ ID NO. 1), pro-UII (SEQ ID NO. 2) and UII (SEQ ID NO. 3);

C<sup>2</sup> Please replace the paragraph at page 11, prenumbered lines 3-4, as follows:

- Figure 3 illustrates the structure of rat prepro-UII (SEQ ID NO. 30), pro-UII (SEQ ID NO. 31) and UII (SEQ ID NO. 32);

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, prenumbered lines 3-4, as follows:

C<sup>3</sup> - Figure 4 illustrates the structure of mouse prepro-UII (SEQ ID NO. 33), pro-UII (SEQ ID NO. 34) and UII (SEQ ID NO. 35);